

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL

January 6, 2014

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, January 6, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Ronnie Michael presided, and the following Councilmembers were present, to-wit: Troy E. Alexander, Benton H. Dry, II, Martha Sue Hall, Martha E. Hughes, Dexter Townsend and Christopher Whitley. Absent, none.

Mayor Michael gave the invocation.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Dry and unanimously carried, the minutes of the December 16 regular session and December 16 closed session minutes were approved as submitted.

The Mayor and City Council considered rezoning a 10.5 acre property at NC 740 and Hilco Street from GHBD/ General Highway Business District to R-8A Multi-Family Residential.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the City Council closed the public hearing.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Dry and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the following ordinance. The map change is in compliance with the Land Use Plan

(Ordinance 14-01. To rezone 10.5 acres from GHBD to R-8 Multi-Family Residential.)

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Hughes and unanimously carried, the City Council approved an agenda adjustment by moving item 29, Closed Session after item 13 is completed.

The Mayor and City Council received a presentation of the 2013 audit which was submitted to the Local Government Commission and has been reviewed. Ken Anderson of Anderson, Smith, Wike LLC presented to Council the audit report for fiscal year ended June 30, 2013.

Mr. Anderson stated that the City received an unmodified opinion on the June 30, 2013 financial statements and handed out a summary sheet of the audit which displayed 2009 to date available fund balances for General, Water and Sewer, Electric, Landfill and Public Housing and property tax collection percentages.

Mr. Anderson pointed out certain page numbers of the report and explained the expenditures and revenues of each fund.

Mr. Anderson stated that he had reported in a letter that in the Parks and Recreation Department, there is too little segregation of duties and monies are not as secure having too many hands taking in money. He asked that a new policy be established concerning this. He answered any questions that Council had.

The Mayor and City Council were presented the results of the 2013 City of Albemarle United Way Campaign by Battalion Chief Tony Upchurch, Interim Public Works Director Nina Underwood, and Revenue Supervisor Lindsay Carter. They worked hard to have a successful campaign this year, and once again the City's employee campaign was one of the top United Way campaigns. The City Manager requested that as in years past, the City Council grant each of them an additional day of annual leave as a small token of appreciation for their efforts.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Dry and unanimously carried, the City Council approved an additional day of annual leave to Battalion Chief Tony Upchurch, Interim Public Works Director Nina Underwood, and Revenue Supervisor Lindsay Carter.

Vice Chairman, Tamara Singletary, Albemarle Downtown Development Corporation introduced the new ADDC Director Shannon Johnson. Ms. Johnson was selected out of 30 candidates by the ADDC board to replace Kathy Almond, who left the ADDC to become the new Chamber of Commerce CEO. Ms. Johnson has worked in both the private and non profit sectors, and most recently has been employed as the Sustainable Local Economy Manager for Cabarrus County. In 2012 she won the Community Sustainability Award from Sustain Charlotte for outstanding contributions to the local economy.

The Mayor and City Council welcomed her.

The Mayor stated that Council had a copy of the municipal calendar in their agenda packets and asked if anyone had any questions.

The Mayor and City Council considered NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund application for Morehead Park Renovations and Improvements. This item was laid over from the December 16 meeting of Council. Parks and Recreation Director Toby Thorpe came before Council with a revised cost estimate for Council to review. He answered any questions that Council had.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Whitley and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund application for Morehead Park Renovations and Improvements in the amount of \$126,075 match for the City.

The Mayor and City Council considered a Resolution of Support for the former Central School Redevelopment Project. Rex Todd from The Landmark Group was present to answer any questions regarding the resolution.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Dry and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a resolution for support of the former Central School Redevelopment Project.

(Resolution 14-02. To support the redevelopment of the former Central Elementary School.)

The Mayor and City Council considered a resolution to approve the small area plan for the former Central School Project in order to qualify for funding by addressing deterioration within a half mile area.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Whitley, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the small area plan for the former Central School Project in order to qualify for funding by addressing deterioration within a half mile area.

(Resolution 14-03. To approve small area plan for the former Central Elementary School Redevelopment Project.)

The Mayor and City Council considered a resolution to close out NC Rural Center grant for Long Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant renovations. The City received a \$1 million grant from the NC Rural Center for Phase I of improvements to the wastewater treatment plant. It was noted that the total cost of the project was \$6.4 million, with the remaining funds provided by the City and through a low interest state loan of \$3 million. This project is complete except for a couple of punch list items involving pumps that were replaced as part of the project, which are being handled under warranty by the equipment supplier. This resolution is required by the NC Rural Center for their records.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Alexander and unanimously carried, the City Council approved closing out the NC Rural Center \$1M grant for Long Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant renovations.

(Resolution 14-01. To close out the NC Rural Center Grant for the Long Creek WWTP renovation.)

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Hughes and unanimously carried, the Mayor and City Council adjourned to a Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11 (a) 4 and 5 to discuss economic development and personnel matters.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the Mayor and City Council reconvened to open session. Mayor Michael announced that a closed session was held pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11 (a) 4 and 5 to discuss economic development and personnel matters and there is nothing to report at this time.

The Mayor and City Council considered initiating the process to sell timber property at the Landfill. Public Works is requesting permission to move forward with the selection of a timber management broker to assist with evaluating timber property on recently acquired land at the Landfill. This broker will be responsible for cruising the area determining the timber to be cut and sold through a formal bid process.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Hughes and unanimously carried, the City Council approved Public Works to move forward with the selection of a timber management broker to assist with evaluating timber property on recently acquired land at the Landfill.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed the (Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) report from Purchasing Coordinator Linda Lewis. Purchasing Coordinator Linda Lewis's comments were as follows:

1. Changes: Page 10: (HUB) Historically Underutilized Business Responsibilities. At the onset of the Statewide Certification Program, several local governments were allowed to certify minority business; however, that option is no longer available; Minority businesses are now advised that they must certify through the HUB Office, Raleigh NC, so that their project participation can be counted toward meeting the HUB Participation Goals.

Ms. Lewis requested Council's approval to update the City's HUB Program Policy as noted on Page 10 of the HUB Policy.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Whitley and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the update of the City's HUB Program Policy as noted on Page 10 of the HUB Policy.

The Mayor and City Council consider a request of Piedmont Natural Gas for a gas main extension on Anderson Grove Church Road and Sunview Drive. This is for approximately 500 feet of new gas main. This has been reviewed by City staff and PNG will have to coordinate with our Water Sewer Systems Division since we have a water line and water and sewer taps in this area

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Dry and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the request of Piedmont Natural gas for a gas main extension on Anderson Grove Church Road and Sunview Drive.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Alexander, and unanimously carried, the following Ordinance was duly adopted:

(Ordinance 14-02. To apply funds to special revenues for remainder of microburst storm expenditures.)

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Alexander and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the following resolution.

(Resolution 14-04. To honor the service of T. Ed Underwood.)

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the following resolution.

(Resolution 14-05. To honor the service of Judy U. Holcomb.)

Upon a motion by Councilmember Whitley, seconded by Councilmember Alexander and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the following resolution.

(Resolution 14-06. To honor the service of Jack F. Neel.)

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Hughes and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the following resolution.

(Resolution 14-07. To honor the service of Elbert L. Whitley, Jr.)

The Mayor and City Council considered approval of an electronic gaming settlement. A proposed settlement agreement with Tammy Swaringen (Pink Flamingo) in the amount of \$4,166.67 was reviewed by Council. At this point, seven out of the ten business license holders in the fiscal year 2012/2013 have returned signed settlement agreements.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Dry and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the electronic settlement agreement with Tammy Swaringen (Pink Flamingo) in the amount of \$4,166.67.

The Mayor and City Council considered a request of the Rocky River RPO for matching funds for NCDOT increased allocation in the amount of \$323.96. The City Manager noted that the RPO has received additional funding from NCDOT, but this requires a 20% match from the member jurisdictions. The City's share would be \$323.96 based on population. Albemarle is the largest municipal member of the RRRPO.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Alexander and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the request of the Rocky River RPO for matching funds for NCDOT increased allocation in the amount of \$323.96.

The Mayor and City Council considered attendance at the Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting. This will take place at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at Stanly Regional Medical Center.

The Mayor and Council affirmed their attendance.

The Mayor and City Council received presentations by City Council District Three Applicants. The six candidates who returned the questionnaires requested by City Council were invited to attend the City Council meeting to make brief presentations (less than 5 minutes). They answered any questions from City Council.

The following Applicants were present:

Bill Aldridge
Eddy McDaniel
Debra Morgan
George Lynn White
Keith Wolf

Mr. Rudolph Cranford, Jr. is also a candidate but was unable to attend tonight due to a death in his family. Council will receive his presentation at a later meeting.

Mayor Michael stated that we will be making a decision in the next several weeks. He also thanked all the candidates for being here.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed information concerning changes in the North Carolina Municipal Power Agency One Rebate Program. Effective January 1, 2014 the NCMPA#1 Rebate Program for heat pumps, water heaters, and other energy efficiency items will be changing. The City Manager noted that the heat pump and water heater rebates are popular with our customers so we will be letting our customers know about the changes. Public Utilities is contacting the HVAC and plumbing contractors that frequently use this program so they will be aware.

The Mayor and City Council were reminded of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast. This will take place on Saturday, January 18, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. at the EE Waddell Community Center. Tickets have been purchased for those board members who indicated they would be able to attend this event, and Councilmember Townsend brought them to the Council meeting for distribution.

The Mayor and City Council were reminded of City Offices being closed on Monday, January 20 for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday and the next regular meeting of the City Council has been rescheduled to Wednesday, January 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Michael stated that the City will be establishing a task force on business development to look at the current City ordinances to see if we need to make changes. We want to be as business friendly as possible. The task force group will begin in February with 4-6 meetings over an approximate 6 month time frame. He also stated that the application for anyone interested is on the City website.

Councilmember Townsend asked that if in the future in addition to a resolution, if a key to the City could also be considered or something of this nature.

Mayor Michael stated that City Manager Allen will look into this.

The City Manager stated that we have keys to the City and the Mayor has the authority to do this if that is what Council would like.

Councilmember Alexander stated that he would like to again ask that all residents consider recycling. We have a local company that is very inexpensive to use in your recycling needs.

Councilmember Dry thanked each candidate for the District 3 seat for being here this evening.

Councilmember Whitley reiterated what Councilmember Alexander about recycling. He also thanked the Mayor for deciding to establish a Business Development Task Force.

Mayor Michael stated that Councilmember Hall was not here tonight due to a death in the family.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Dry and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned until Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 6:00 pm at the Rosebriar Restaurant for a joint meeting with the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment and Rudy Cranford's presentation for the District 3 Seat at 6 pm.